# Unmasking the Anguish: A Study of Select #MeToo Memoirs

**Plan of Work**
**For PhD Programme**


## Submitted by

**Sudeb Mandal**
**23151CUKmr002**

## Under the Supervision of:
**Prof. (Dr) Sandhya Tiwari**

**Department of English**
**School of Languages**
**Central University of Kashmir**

**INDEX**


| S NO. | TITLE | PAGE |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Introduction | |
| 2 | Research Problem | |
| 3 | Review of Literature | |
| 4 | Research Gap | |
| 5 | Objectives | |
| 6 | Research Methodology | |
| 7 | Tentative Chapterization | |
| 8 | Tentative Bibliography | |

**Introduction:**

A comparative study offers readers a unique opportunity to cultivate a multidimensional perspective. It carefully analyzes the nuances of two or more literary works through diverse standpoints, examining similarities, differences, and parallels across the chosen texts. Furthermore, it investigates the modes, conventions, and themes present in different literary traditions. Rabindranath Tagore, a visionary writer from Bengal in his 1905 lecture at the University of Paris on Comparative Literature emphasized more than a century ago emphasised the merits of studying comparative literature, as it broadens the interpretive horizons of readers and researchers globally. He added:

> …what you name Comparative Literature in English. In Bangla, I will call it Biswa Sahitya (World Literature). … Do not imagine that I will be your guide on this path of world literature. We all have to go clear this path according to our own ability. I just wanted to say that the world is not your farm or my farm, to know the world in this way is to narrow our knowledge of it. Similarly, literature is not my work or his work or her work. We usually look at literature in this very unsophisticated way. The time has come to set ourselves the goal of freeing ourselves from that mental restriction and to *see all humanity in world literature*, to embrace what is essentially human in each author's work, and to relate it to the human striving for self-expression. (Tagore 62)

The MeToo movement gained substantial momentum in 2017, in response to widespread allegations of workplace sexual harassment and assault. Originally launched by activist Tarana Burke in 2006 on 'MySpace' to raise awareness about sexual violence and provide support to survivors, the movement gained global recognition on October 15, 2017. This surge followed the publication of the sexual harassment report on Harvey Weinstein by journalists Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey. Hollywood actress Alyssa Milano encouraged individuals to share their experiences of sexual harassment or assault using the hashtag #MeToo on social media. The movement aimed to expose the scale of sexual misconduct, challenge societal norms, and offer survivors a platform to share their stories, fostering agency through solidarity. As Tarana Burke described it, the movement represents an "International Justice," while Alyssa Milano characterized it as "standing in solidarity with all those who have been hurt." The MeToo movement sparked a global conversation about the prevalence of sexual harassment and assault across various sectors, including entertainment, politics, academia, and other workplaces. One significant outcome was increased awareness and sensitivity to issues surrounding sexual misconduct, consent, and

accountability, leading to the establishment of organizations that support survivors. The movement also catalyzed discussions on the systemic changes needed to prevent and address such behaviors, with a focus on fostering a culture of respect and equality.

Since the dawn of human existence, mankind has endured countless atrocities, ranging from wars, terrorism, and communal violence to natural disasters and sexual abuse. The 20th century, in particular, stands as a grim testament to such devastation, witnessing the horrors of two World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the catastrophic use of nuclear weapons. While these events may seem primarily physical in nature, their deeper impact often lies in the profound psychological scars they leave behind, resulting in enduring trauma for those affected.

The term 'trauma,' which first surfaced in 1693, is derived from the Greek word *'**τραῦμα**'* (traûma). While the Greeks originally used the term to refer to 'physical wound or injury', it now encompasses emotional and psychic wounds that follow traumatic episodes.

American Psychological Association (APA) defines trauma as "emotional response to a terrible event like an accident, crime, natural disaster, physical or emotional abuse, neglect, experiencing or witnessing violence, death of a loved one, war, and more." The association further explains that immediately after a traumatic event, shock and denial are common reactions. Over time, individuals may experience unpredictable emotions, flashbacks, strained relationships, and even physical symptoms such as headaches or nausea. While these responses are normal, some people struggle to move forward. Psychologists can assist by helping them develop constructive strategies for managing their emotions and coping with the trauma. Merriam-Webster Dictionary outlines trauma as "a disordered psychic or behavioral state resulting from severe mental or emotional stress or physical injury."

Trauma Studies gained renewed momentum following the two World Wars, as soldiers exhibited symptoms of what was then termed "shell shock." They suffered from long-term depression, anxiety, nightmares, fear, and restlessness, which highlighted the psychological toll of war. The Holocaust further expanded the scope of Trauma Studies, with the unimaginable struggles and horrors faced by concentration camp survivors adding a critical dimension to the field. These profound historical events played a pivotal role in the establishment of Trauma Studies within literature.

Cathy Caruth's seminal work *'Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative and History'* (1996) offers a conceptual framework for studying the impact of trauma. Her work is foundational in trauma studies, highlighting the need for this field, which had previously been underexplored. She describes trauma, in its most general definition as "an overwhelming

experience of sudden or catastrophic events in which the response to the event occurs in the often delayed, and uncontrolled repetitive appearance of hallucinations and other uncontrolled phenomenon" (Caruth 11). In the introduction to this book, she further writes:

> …what seems to be suggested by Freud in 'Beyond the Pleasure Principle' is that the wound of the mind—the breach in the mind's experience of time, self, and the world—is not, like the wound of the body, a simple and healable event, but rather an event that…is experienced too soon, too unexpectedly, to be fully known and is therefore not available to consciousness until it imposes itself again, repeatedly, in the nightmares and repetitive actions of the survivor…so trauma is not locatable in the simple violent or original event in an individual's past, but rather in the way that its very unassimilated nature—the way it was precisely not known in the first instance—returns to haunt the survivor later on. (Caruth 4)

Trauma studies are critical for understanding the often unbearable effects of traumatic experiences on both individuals and communities. It helps us comprehend how trauma shapes our everyday lives and future. This field is essential in exploring the lasting effects of trauma on human behavior, mental health, and social dynamics. Trauma can manifest emotionally through depression, stress, hypervigilance, low self-esteem, and cultural shame, while also leading to the loss of language, culture, and traditions. Traumatic experiences range from physical and sexual abuse to neglect, violence, terrorism, and war, with personal trauma often articulated in memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies.

The objective of my study is to examine the traumatic experiences of individuals, particularly the select writers, who have found empowerment through the #MeToo Movement and the increasing number of harassment stories shared on virtual platforms such as Twitter, Tumblr, Babe.net, the Everyday Sexism Project, and Quora. My research seeks to uncover the profound and lasting effects of these traumas on mental health and the psyche. The primary focus of my research is to investigate how these writers not only emerge as survivors of trauma but also become leaders in a broader movement through their writings, establishing themselves as successful authors in the process. It also aims to examine how they have articulated and presented their stories to a global audience, fostering solidarity through shared experiences of victimhood. Additionally, my study will analyze how these writers have confronted and managed their trauma by employing various defense mechanisms in response to internal conflicts related to gender, societal expectations, and their efforts to challenge and break stereotypical gender norms, ultimately asserting themselves as resilient fighters. This study aims to explore how selected female writers experience trauma in two distinct

dimensions—physical and psychological. This trauma, ranging from stalking to rape, carries unique psychological impacts that require a comprehensive, integrated framework for analysis. By analyzing these works through the dual lenses of trauma theory and feminist discourse, this study holds promise as a significant contribution to both literary and feminist scholarship.

**Research Problem:**

In my analysis of #MeToo narratives in relation to trauma theory, this study will undertake a comparative examination of the selected works of three prominent writers: Roxane Gay, Rose McGowan, and Donna Freitas. While existing research has explored these writers individually, no comprehensive comparative study has been attempted thus far, particularly focusing on the profound impact of trauma on their works and their journey toward survival and triumph.

This research will offer a unique opportunity to delve into the representation of trauma in these literary memoirs. The deeply personal narratives of these writers enhance the authenticity of the trauma they depict, reflected in the characters and situations they portray. The proposed study will seek to break new ground by contributing fresh insights to the existing body of research, adding new dimensions to our understanding of trauma, resilience, and coping mechanisms.

Through concrete illustrations from the selected works, this research aims to provide an in-depth exploration of the psychological effects of trauma on individuals and how these authors' experiences inform their writing. It will also examine the direct and indirect connections between the writers' personal lives and their literary output. Additionally, this study will position these works as key trauma narratives within the broader context of Fourth Wave Feminism and the #MeToo Movement. Ultimately, the research hopes to deepen the understanding of the psyche of these writers and their characters, the scope of their suffering, and the extent of their traumatic experiences. By analyzing these works through the dual lenses of trauma theory and feminist discourse, this study holds promise as a significant contribution to both trauma and feminist scholarship. As a trauma theorist, Cathy Caruth, currently a professor at Cornell University opines that literature and trauma are deeply intertwined. She emphasizes the need for further research to gain a deeper understanding of the profound relationship between the two. (Caruth 3)

**Review of literature:**

Sigmund Freud in his pioneering book *'Studies in Hysteria'* (1895) writes that a person reproduces, repeats and relives his/her past traumatic experience "without of course, knowing that he is repeating…He cannot escape from the compulsion to repeat; and in the end we understand that this is the way of remembering" (Freud 271).

Anna Freud in her ground-breaking writing 'The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defence' (1936), discusses ten primary defense mechanisms that are employed by ego to protect individual from anxiety and internal conflict. According to Freud's structural model of the psyche, whenever an internal conflict arises between the three components of personality—the id, ego, and superego—the ego acts as the decision-maker. It mediates the conflict and employs various defense mechanisms to ward off anxiety and discomfort, striving to maintain a balance between the instinctual desires of the id and the moral demands of the superego. Those ten defense cum survival mechanisms are – Repression Denial Regression Projection Reaction-Formation Displacement Identification Undoing Rationalization Sublimation.

Cathy Caruth in her seminal and ground-breaking work '*Unclaimed Experience Trauma, Narrative and* History' defines trauma as "an overwhelming experience of sudden, or catastrophic events, in which the response to the event occurs in the often delayed, and uncontrolled repetitive occurrence of hallucinations and other intrusive phenomena" (Caruth 181). Trauma is often understood as a profound shattering of the self, challenging the very core of personal identity and leading to an identity crisis for the victim. While trauma is frequently associated with harrowing events such as warfare and assaults, it can also be triggered by a wide range of experiences, including racial discrimination, criminal and sexual violence, child abuse, poverty, natural disasters, domestic violence, and terrorist attacks. Political, social, and religious factors often intertwine with violence, intensifying trauma and contributing to the development of post-traumatic disorders. In its more evolved understanding, trauma can be categorized into various forms, including hidden trauma, political trauma, social trauma, individual trauma, and national trauma. Each type of adversity has the power to profoundly disrupt and destabilize our very sense of existence.

Lenore Terr, in her influential book *'Too Scared to Cry: Psychic Trauma'* (1990) defines psychic trauma as "a sudden, unexpected, overwhelming intense emotional blow or a series of blows assaults the person from outside" (Terr 8). She further added, "Traumatic events are external, but they quickly become incorporated into the mind" (Terr 8). According to her, traumatic events can include sexual and physical abuse, violence, disaster, alienation, war etc.

Kai Erikson, another prominent theorist in the field of trauma studies in one of his article namely, *'Notes on trauma and community'* writes, "...trauma can result from a constellation

of life's experiences as well as from a discrete event— from a prolonged exposure to danger as well as from a sudden flash of terror, from a continuing pattern of abuse as well as from a single assault, from a period of attenuation and wearing away as well as from a moment of shock" (Erikson 457).

Further, the American Psychiatric Association (2013) defines the mental condition of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as, a psychiatric disorder that may occur in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event such as a natural disaster, a serious accident, a terrorist act, war/combat, or rape or who have been threatened with death, sexual violence or serious injury. (Torres, 2020)

In her thesis namely, '*Reading Contemporary Memoirs of Sexual Assault in the Wake of #MeToo'* Amanda Spallacci writes: "In '***Hunger'***, Gay states that she was 'raped by Christopher and several of his friends in an abandoned hunting cabin in the woods where no one but those boys could hear [her] scream' (Gay 48). Even though she suffered such a horrible crime, Gay never spoke about nor reported the violence because she knew that the court evaluates rape cases based on "he said/she said"—the perpetrator's testimony set up against the survivor's testimony—and that "all too often, what 'he said' matters more" than what she says (52). So, women who have been sexually assaulted, like Gay, "just swallow the truth" (52). In her thesis she tried to study the work from feminine and socio-cultural standpoint.

In KIRKUS Review of Donna Freitas's ***'Consent: A Memoir of Unwanted Attention'*** someone has written mentioning Consent as "a potent memoir of stalking with special resonance in the era of #MeToo." She/he further writes "In her memoir, Freitas exposes the psychological havoc caused by her stalker and navigates the complex terrain of structural sexism and double standards involved with trusting in authority, academia, and the Catholic Church. First silenced by self-doubt and later by confidentiality agreements, the author provides a harrowing narrative of the detachment and disconnection often felt by harassment survivors. In her painstaking account, imbued throughout with alternating senses of self-awareness and self-doubt, Freitas reviews her choices as if constantly scanning for fault or responsibility even as she unfolds the layers of lies that protected an influential professor." It was a brief review of Freitas's text from the point of view of a reader.

In a review of '*Brave*,' a memoir by Rose McGowan, Barbara Ellen writes: "In this era of long overdue reckoning for male behaviour, it seems strange for the world to focus on McGowan's credibility. What really counts is that, when it mattered, she stood up and spoke out and empowered many others to do so. Indeed, in Brave, she talks about how she's

‘immeasurably proud of having had a hand in the cataclysmic global reckoning.’ Ms McGowan, you should be.” It was a short review from the perspective of an interested reader. Robert D. Stolorow in his book 'Trauma and Human Existence: Autobiographical, Psychoanalytic, and Philosophical Reflections, included in Psychoanalytic Inquiry Book Series) (2007) has dexterously delineated the notion of trauma and how it works on different level and context. He goes on to say:

> By the time she reached my office, she said, she was completely dispersed along the time dimension of her crushing life history. Upon hearing this, I spoke just three words: “Trauma destroys time.” (Stolorow 17)

He further adds:

> This felt incommensurability, in turn, contributes to the sense of alienation and estrangement from other human beings that typically haunts the traumatized person. Torn from the communal fabric of being-in-time, trauma remains insulated from human dialogue. (Stolorow 20)

In the memoire ‘Brave’ Rose McGowan has also made similar assertion when she narrated her ordeal:

> Anybody who’s a sexual assault victim will tell you: the trauma does strange things to your sense of time, your memory. There are details you remember with uncanny accuracy—the shape of the tiles, the yellow quality of the light, the obscene bulbousness of a nose out of all proportion to the rest of a face—and then there are gaps in the timeline where there’s nothing, nothing. Every second extends for a hellish eternity, but it all happens in a flash. And your life is never the same. My life was never going to be the same. (McGowan 122)

**Research Gap:**

The literature review above highlights that, although many researchers and theorists have explored the evolution of trauma in various literary works and engaged in extensive discussions on the topic, there has yet to be a focused study on the three selected writers. To date, an extensive exploration of available online resources has uncovered a master's thesis dedicated to Roxane Gay's memoir; however, there is a notable absence of research specifically devoted to the memoirs of Donna Freitas and Rose McGowan, with only a few website reviews lacking academic rigor. Consequently, the proposed research aims to comparatively trace the effects of trauma in the lives of these writers and analyze its impact on their literary works.

Furthermore, the existing studies discussed above demonstrate the diverse interests of scholars who have analysed the selected memoirs of Roxane Gay, Rose McGowan, and Donna Freitas. However, these studies also highlight the potential to read these texts as memoirs of memory and mourning, identifying the incidences of trauma, survival, and recovery through employing multiple defensive and coping up mechanisms. This study aims to enhance our understanding of the complexity and intricacy of trauma in the lives of victims and survivors. By untangling the multifaceted nature of trauma, it will elucidate its mechanisms and provide insights into effective coping strategies. Ultimately, this research seeks to contribute new findings to the field of trauma studies, fostering a deeper comprehension of how trauma operates and how individuals can best navigate their healing journeys.

Additionally, after reviewing both 'Shodhganga: a Reservoir of Indian Theses' and 'Shodhgangotri: Repository of Research in Progress,' it has been observed that there is currently no research underway that focuses on my intended topic. This indicates a significant gap in the existing literature that warrants further exploration and investigation.

**Objectives**:

The proposed study aims to:

1. Analyze the selected autobiographies through the lenses of Trauma Studies and socio-political perspectives, such as feminism and other critical theories.
2. Investigate the modes of expression utilized by memoirists in narrating their traumatic experiences.
3. Examine the underlying causes of trauma and the symptoms that manifest in the selected texts.
4. Explore the impact of trauma in its various forms on the human body, mind, and psyche, and how it affects both children and adults similarly and differently.
5. Delve into the inner and outer worlds of trauma victims, revealing how trauma alters their personal and social realities.
6. To evaluate the role of trauma, self-doubt, and silence in shaping identity.
7. Assess the extent to which individuals can exert control over their trauma, recognizing that trauma is a subjective experience.
8. Explore various trauma triggers that lead to further trauma, PTSD, or repetition compulsion.

9. Shed light on the different dimensions of trauma recovery and strategies for effectively combating trauma.

**Research methodology:**

The universe of this study encompasses the creative oeuvre of Fourth Wave feminism and #MeToo narratives, with a focus on three select memoirs: Donna Freitas's *Consent: A Memoir of Unwanted Attention* (2019), Roxane Gay's *Hunger: A Memoir of My Body* (2017), and Rose McGowan's *Brave: A Revealing and Empowering Memoir* (2018)

Therefore, the proposed Research Methodology aims to:

1. Employ qualitative research method to examine trauma, memory and identity in selected #MeToo memoirs.
2. Utilize literary analysis, historical contextualization, and theoretical frameworks given by numerous trauma and social theorist.
3. Conduct close readings, character analysis, and an in-depth examination of narrative techniques, including staging and dialogue, to uncover representations of memory and identity.
4. Situate the memoirs within their historical and social contexts to better understand the societal influences on the characters' experiences and identity formation.
5. Apply various theoretical lenses to explore the psychological mechanisms involved in the portrayal of trauma, self-doubt, memory, and identity within the selected texts.

**Tentative Chapterization:**

**Chapter One:** Introduction

**Chapter Two:**

Donna Freitas's memoir, 'Consent: A Memoir of Unwanted Attention,' serves as a critical non-fiction account that vividly recounts her traumatic experiences from the perspective of a mature woman, rather than a teenage girl. At the outset of her memoir she termed trauma as "a jumble of feelings, of memories, of nausea and sickness in a person's gut, of confusion in the mind." This chapter will explore how Donna Freitas, as a college student, becomes a victim of her professor's sexual misconduct. Despite his inappropriate advances, Freitas initially struggles to see his actions as wrong, largely due to her admiration for him as a distinguished Catholic priest practicing celibacy. She internalizes the blame through **repression** and **denial** of trauma, believing that something about her must have provoked his behavior. She tries to rationalize that she might be at fault (**projection**), even as the professor

engages in disturbing conduct, such as stalking her, gathering information about her family, forcing her to watch a nude opera with him, and constantly calling her during her mother's terminal illness. This chapter will illustrate how societal norms and stereotypical expectations compel Freitas to first blame herself for the abuse and how trauma disrupts an individual's ability to perform daily tasks, leading to isolation and alienation from society. It highlights how trauma interrupts the normal flow of life, causing withdrawal and deepening the emotional divide between the traumatized person and their community.

At the same time, the support of her friends—who listen to her story and believe her—helps her begin to overcome the trauma. This chapter will analyze Freitas's experience through the lens of both feminist #MeToo writing and trauma narrative, focusing on how trauma triggers can cause victims to relive their experiences long after the events have occurred. It will examine how memories are sometimes completely erased due to trauma, drawing on theories from Cathy Caruth, Judith Herman's PTSD framework, Erik Erikson's Psychosocial Developmental Theory, and Van der Kolk's trauma explanations. Furthermore, this chapter will shed light on how trauma survivors can reclaim agency by understanding their own suffering, gaining knowledge about trauma, the human mind, and the influence of society, religion, and solidarity. Writing, as a form of catharsis, will also be discussed as a means of overcoming trauma. Lastly, this chapter will critically examine how Freitas, as a brilliant scholar, is reduced to her body by her professor, demonstrating how gender, subaltern status, and societal norms shape identity and silence victims of trauma.

**Chapter Three:**

This chapter examines how Roxane Gay becomes a target of body shaming and highlights the societal tendency to reduce women to the aesthetic value of their bodies. After experiencing rape at the hands of a friend during her teenage years, Gay grapples with deep-seated trauma that resurfaces whenever she finds herself alone with men. Internalizing blame for her ordeal, she turns to food as a coping mechanism, believing that gaining weight might protect her from future harm. This misguided attempt at self-preservation leads to further isolation and ultimately doubles her trauma when she faces body shaming from society, compounding her struggles with self-image.

Through her writing, Gay delves into difficult subjects, offering modern insights into feminism, race, body image, and eating disorders. She confronts her insecurities head-on, repeatedly exposing her wounds for the sake of authenticity in her narrative. This chapter will explore her moments of introspection, characterized by self-loathing and a hyper-critical view of her body that mirrors the judgment she perceives from others. It will emphasize how

conforming to societal norms exacerbates her trauma, perpetuating a cycle of self-blame and victim-blaming. Ultimately, Gay's experience illustrates the complex interplay between trauma and the societal pressures that dictate how women perceive themselves and their bodies.

**Chapter Four:**

This chapter sheds light on the trauma Rose McGowan experienced at the hands of a world-famous film producer who primarily cast beautiful female actresses. As McGowan reveals in her memoir, these women were often objectified, reduced to mere Barbie dolls whose sole purpose was to satisfy male scopophilia. She chillingly writes:

> "Imagine if your value to the company you work for was measured by how much semen you could extract from anonymous masses of men. 'Cause you know, if strange men masturbate to your movies, you must be of some value. Sounds like a sex worker, right? You're not too far off." Eventually, McGowan was raped by this producer, an event that left her deeply traumatized. Tragically, she felt unable to speak out due to the normalization of workplace harassment and the pervasive culture of victim-blaming. (McGowan 122)

This chapter will explore how gendered societal structures exacerbate the suffering of victims, often pushing them into long-term psychological conditions like PTSD. It will also analyze how McGowan eventually reclaimed her agency, fighting back against these social evils and forming female solidarity to inspire other survivors who, like her, had been silenced and stripped of agency. Through her resilience, McGowan became a powerful voice for those who had been forced into silence, demonstrating how solidarity can empower victims to stand against oppression.

**Chapter Four/Five:** Conclusion

**Tentative Bibliography:**

**Primary Sources:**

Freitas, Donna. *Consent: A Memoir of Unwanted Attention*. Little, Brown and Company, 2019.

Gay, Roxan. *Hunger: A Memoir of (My Body)*. Harper Collins, 2017.

McGowan, Rose. *Brave: A Revealing and Empowering Memoir.* Harper Collins, 2018.

**Secondary Sources:**

Bates, Laura. *Everyday Sexism Project*. Virago Press, 2014.

Buelens, Gert, Sam Durrant, and Robert Eaglestone, editors. *The Future of Trauma Theory: Contemporary Literary and Cultural Criticism.* Routledge, 2014.

Caruth, Cathy. *Unclaimed experience: Trauma, narrative, and history*. JHU Press, 2016.

———, editor. *Trauma: Explorations in Memory*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

Cochrane, Kira. "The Fourth Wave of Feminism." *The Guardian*, 10 Dec. 2013, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/10/fourth-wave-feminism.

Das, Veena. *Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary*. Philip E. Lilienthal Books, 2006.

Das, Veena, and Ashis Nandy. "Violence, Victimhood, and the Language of Silence." *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, vol. 19, no. 1, 1985, pp. 177-195.

Erikson, Kai. "Notes on Trauma and Community." *American Imago*, vol. 48, no. 4, 1991, pp. 455-472.

Freud, Anna. *The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defence*. Karnac Books, 1992.

Freud, Sigmund. *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*. Translated by James Strachey, W.W. Norton & Company, 1961.

———. *The Ego and the Id*. Translated by James Strachey, W.W. Norton & Company, 1960.

———. *Inhibitions, Symptoms, and Anxiety*. Translated by Alix Strachey, W.W. Norton & Company, 1959.

———. *Studies in Hysteria*. 1895. Translated by James Strachey, Basic Books, 2000.

———. *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Translated by James Strachey, Basic Books, 2000.

———. "The Unconscious." *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud,* vol. 14, translated by James Strachey, Hogarth Press, 1957, pp. 159-204.

Gay, Roxane. *Bad Feminist*. Harper Perennial, 2014.

Kantor, Jodi, and Megan Twohey. *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement.* Penguin Press, 2019.

Mitra, Zinia. *Fourth Wave Feminism, Social Media and (Sl)activism.* Kitaab International Pte Ltd, 2020.

Nadal, Marita, and Mónica Calvo, editors. Trauma in Contemporary Literature: Narrative and Representation. Routledge, 2014.

Spallacci, Amanda. "Reading Contemporary Memoirs of Sexual Assault in the Wake of #MeToo." PhD thesis, University of Alberta, 2021.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. “Can the Subaltern Speak?” *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, edited by Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg, University of Illinois Press, 1988, pp. 271-313.

Stolorow, Robert D. *Trauma and Human Existence: Autobiographical, Psychoanalytic, and Philosophical Reflections*. Psychoanalytic Inquiry Book Series, 2007.

Tagore, Rabindranath. *Visva-Sahitya (World Literature).* Translated by Rijula Das and Makarand R. Paranjape, 2001.

Tal, Kali. *Worlds of Hurt: Reading the Literatures of Trauma*. New York University Press, 1996.

Terr, Lenore. *Too Scared to Cry: Psychic Trauma*. HarperCollins, 1990.

Van der Kolk, Bessel. *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma.* Viking, 2014.

**Web Sources:**

Murray, Stuart. “Brave by Rose McGowan Review – A Powerful Call to Arms.” *The Guardian*, 11 Feb. 2018, www.theguardian.com/books/2018/feb/11/brave-rose-mcgowan-review-harvey-weinstein.

Vanderbilt, David. “Consent: A Memoir of Unwanted Attention by Donna Freitas.” *Kirkus* Reviews, 1 May 2019, www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/donna-freitas/consent-memoir-unwanted/